

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 OIC-04 NEA-10 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /179 W

----- 121080

P R 180750Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1684

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5154

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, SEATO

SUBJ: SEATO 18TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 184665; B) BANGKOK 14522

1. REF A -- ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT BIRCH (DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS) SAYS GOA COUNCIL MEMBER SENATOR DONALD WILLESEE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN TO RAISE ANY TOPICS OUTSIDE AGENDA OF COUNCIL MEETING. BIRCH SAID GOA WAS SURPRISED BY THAI INTENTION TO RAISE AT STAG DINNER THREE SUBJECTS WHICH APPEARED IRRELEVANT TO COUNCIL AGENDA.

2. GOA FORESEES NO PROBLEMS AT MEETING UNLESS THAIS FAIL TO ABIDE BY COMPROMISE PACKAGE AGREED IN BANGKOK, INCLUDING RESOLUTION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ISSUE. BIRCH SAID GOA HAS NO REASON TO EXPECT GOT TO RENIG ON AGREEMENTS REACHED.

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3. REF B -- WE HAVE ONE COMMENT REGARDING PARA 6 OF

AMBASSADOR UNGER'S EXCELLENT SUMMARY CABLE ON COUNCIL MEETING. WHITLAM STATES PUBLICLY THAT A REMODELED SEATO CONTINUES TO BE USEFUL BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF SEATO TO THAILAND, AN ARGUMENT WE HAVE OFTEN USED. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT HIS REAL REASON FOR AGREEING TO CONTINUE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION, WHICH IS UNPOPULAR IN AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY, IS QUITE SIMPLY THAT USG APPEARS TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO SEATO AND NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED ITS INDEPENDENCE OF US ON OTHER ISSUES. GREEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** (A) STATE 184665; B) BANGKOK 14522  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** smithrj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <12-Dec-2001 by smithrj>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MARR, AS, SEATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005